

REMARKS

Claim 22 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13-19 are amended, as discussed below.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

I. The Drawings

The drawings are objected to as not showing every feature of the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that drawings are not necessary for the claimed invention as claim 22, the coating apparatus claim, has now been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

II. The Rejection of Claims 1-19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, for a number of reasons, as discussed below.

(a) Claim 1 and dependent claims 2-19 are rejected based on the phrase "transmitting low frequency vibrations." The Examiner has suggested that Applicants delete this phrase because the claim is already clear in that the energy measured is a direct result of the impact of the particles on the surface of the reaction chamber. Applicants agree with the Examiner that this phrase is superfluous and have followed the Examiner's suggestions to delete this phrase.

(b) Claims 13-16 are rejected as lacking proper antecedent basis for the term "the granules." Applicants respectfully submit that the term "the granules" is inherent in the term "granular composition," and Applicants have clarified this in amended claims 13-16.

(c) Claims 17-19 are rejected on the basis that they recite the use of the method of acoustic analysis of claim 1, but do not set forth any steps involved in the method for preparing the granules. Applicants have amended claims 17-19 to address this issue.

(d) Claim 22 is rejected as confusing and indefinite. The rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112 is rendered moot by the cancellation of this claim.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

III. The Rejection of Claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Belchamber et al. This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 22.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

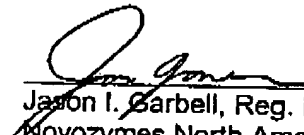
Claims 1-16 were stated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicants have complied with this indication, and Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any additional issues, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 14, 2004


Jason I. Garbell, Reg. No. 44,116
Novozymes North America, Inc.
500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600
New York, NY 10110
(212)840-0097